

Mountain Solstice Retreat Itinerary

Thursday, June 20

(Sunset 8:31pm, Moonrise 11:11pm)

- **Gather and Ground**
- **Family Dinner**
- **Sunset Class * Antiscia and Planetary Parallels**

In the high northern latitudes of magical Maine, the June Solstice Sun sets way late (8:45pm!) and way north of due West. This extreme separation from the cardinal directions will help tune us into the sacred astronomy of the tropical Zodiac, which derives its name from tropikos, a Greek word meaning “turn around” that was used to describe the solstice (Latin for “Sun stops”). In this class, Gemini will help us connect to the annual dance of the Sun and transmit a grounded understanding of the powerful astrological associations known as Antiscia and Parallels.
- **Mercury-Mars Meditation and Synodic Cycle Teaching**

Our retreat will offer an opportunity to see every visible Planet! That’s right... we’ll even catch the Trickster. Mercury reaches maximum elongation on June 23rd as Mars prepares to be taken under the beams of the Sun. Gemini will help us see why their cycles work so differently, then we’ll spend some silent time connecting to their conjunction in Cancer to set our intentions for personal alchemy.
- **Night Sky Class * The Star at the Center * Getting Directions**

Gemini will share his four-step practice for entering the temple of the night sky. Learn to receive the heavenly transmissions directly and get directions from the star on the top of the world tree. We’ll also connect to Jupiter and Saturn before heading to bed to dream with the Aquarius Moon.

Friday, June 21

(Sunrise 4:58am, Sunset 8:31pm, Moonrise 11:43pm)

- **AstroMovement**

Morning yin yoga, qi gong, and/or kundalini yoga
- **Family Breakfast**
- **What in the Heavens is the Tropical Zodiac?**

Why aren’t the Signs aligned to the Constellations? What’s up with this Ophiuchus business? Are the astronomers right about astrologers being wrong? Nope, they are just ignoring the very real astronomy of Tropical astrology. It’s time for us to re-member that astrology is so much more than a symbolic language alone. Astrology is the poetic breath of nature and when we re-nature our astrology, we reconnect to the roots of the rules and the proofs of the equations we use. Gemini will transmit grounded teachings of sacred astronomy that will not only assist in your defense of astrology against the materialists’ attacks, but will equip you to teach them a thing or two about matter. More importantly, this true understanding of what the Tropical Zodiac is and is not will open you to a true gnosis of the Turning of the Ages prophecies that we will honor as the Solstice Sun culminates.

- **Solstice Ceremony * The Sacred Hoop**

Learn how to construct a medicine wheel for honoring the seven sacred directions and aligning to the essence of the astrological angles and angels. Gemini will teach ancient techniques for keeping the days and will share prophecies from many wisdom traditions that confirm what you already know: we are living within a rare window of planetary rebirth. This is the “Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven and sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One” (Christian). This is purification through the great Inipi of the Heavens... the Sacred Hoop (Lakota). This is the smoke of Creation from the great hearthstones and the Sun’s return from the mouth of the Cosmic Serpent (Maya). You will also learn why this Solstice invokes the shadow dragon of 2001 when everything changed and what we can do to help realign our time and space.

- **Family Lunch and Chill Time**

Take a swim, go for a walk, relax and integrate the teachings

- **Sunday River Plant Meditation and Sharing Circle**

We will journey together to the nearby Sunday River to.... Wait a second... Sun-Day River? Cancerian Waters on the Day of the Sun’s highest climb?? Amazing. Now, where were we... right... we will journey together to the nearby Sunday River where herbalist / alchemist Améla Hall will transmit ancient sacred techniques of connecting directly to plant spirit wisdom. Améla will guide us through a plant sit, then we’ll circle up to share the messages we receive from Mother Earth.

- **Family Dinner**

- **Calcination * The First Stage of Alchemical Transmutation**

This is the first of three alchemy presentations Améla and Gemini will team up to transmit. We begin with Calcination, the burning, which ain’t easy, but as the old ways say, “For when the matter is blackened, Rejoice! Now, you know you are on your path to purification.” We will address the Great Work, the transmutation of the Soul, through studying the process of creating spagyric medicine. What were the moments in your life when everything caught on fire? Would you take it all back, or have you found gratitude for those past aches that shook you awake? What collective calcinations are we going through now and how can we transmute the burning flames without into subtle inner fires of creation? Call in the Crow and fall from the Tower of the Tarot.

- **Night Sky * Jupiter, Saturn, and Galactic Center**

We will apply the plant sit practice Améla taught by the riverside to open our channels to the river of the sky. What will we learn through Planet sit practices with Jupiter and Saturn?

Saturday, June 22

(Sunrise 4:59am, Sunset 8:31pm, Moonrise 12:12am)

- **AstroMovement**

Morning yin yoga, qi gong, and/or kundalini yoga

- **Family Breakfast**

- **Syzygy * Sun, Moon, Earth * Circle, Crescent, Cross * Spirit, Soul, Matter**

How can we approach the most magical meridians of astrological acupuncture called Eclipse without asking these most fundamental questions first: What is Sun? What is Moon? What is Earth? Gemini

will share secrets of sacred geometry and number magic, as well as examine the Emerald Tablets of Hermes through the lens of sacred astronomy to address these mysteries of “the three parts of the philosophy of the whole world.” Explore the great Pyramid, Stonehenge, and more for clues left by the ancient builders about Matter, Spirit, and Soul, and prepare to have your mind blown by the impossible synchronicities of Earth, Sun, and Moon. Matrix or Goddess? You choose.

- **More than a Phase * Seed, Sprout, Flower, and Fruit * The Synodic Moonth**

Spirit needs Matter to grow, so Moon put the yoU in SOuL. This is Moon delivering Sun to Earth, or Diana midwifing Apollo’s birth. Moon is so much more than instincts or emotional needs alone, and a deeper gnosis is invoked when we expand our lunar awareness beyond Sign and House. Observing Moon by Phase opens us to cyclic consciousness and helps us hear our chart as a chord of a never-ending movement played by the celestial symphony. What is your Phase and what was the Seed of your lunation? Most importantly, how does this expression of the not-two reflect your path on Earth? Gemini will also share the astronomical keys of the Parts of Fortune and Daemon (Spirit) and will address the challenges of creating a calendar that honors both Moon and Sun.

- **Family Lunch and Chill Time**

Take a swim, go for a walk, relax and integrate the teachings

- **Size Matters * Black Moon Lilith * Lunar Distance, Size, and Speed**

Do you have fast or slow Lunar speed and just what in the Heavens could that mean? Orbits are elliptical, not circular, and all eclipses have two foci. Okay, but why have astrologers connected the dark focus of the Moon-Earth relationship to the mythos of Lilith? Is this simply more patriarchal projection or is there something in Lilith that hides behind the veil of our reactions? Calling Moon’s perigee Priapus after a Roman god with a supersized phallus certainly doesn’t help us see what the points called black and white Moon are really about. Or does it? And what does the emerging astro-awareness of Lilith say about the rise of the Divine Feminine or/and of the Dark Goddess? Gemini will translate the strange stories of the ‘eater of Souls’ through the language of sacred astronomy and will share his feelings about how the unborn can be the most powerful guides to those of us who reside on Earth.

- **Chart Art * Beyond House and Sign**

It’s time to apply the teachings of Lunar Phase, Size, Speed, Seed, and Latitude to some charts. Who’s game?

- **Family Dinner**

- **Dissolution * Overcome by the Waters of Transmutation**

Gemini and Améla continue their transmissions of the Great Work by calling in the deluge of alchemical dissolution. There’s just no use in trying to stay dry when the tidal wave of change roars your way. How many times have you lost your mind only to find your truth? Would you time machine back to normality if you could, or have you found gratitude for awakening into the dream even if it’s too strange for the company you used to keep? What collective crazy is currently cleaning out the closet of our cultural conditioning and how can we go with the flow when it seems to be leading rapidly towards a dystopian drowning? There can be no Stone without the Salt, and there can be no Salt until the burnt matter drowns, but fear not courageous change agent, the Moon boat will keep you afloat.

- **Night Sky * Seeing the Heavenly Houses in Space with your Face**

How would we astrologize if some freak event took our ephemerides? Could you cast a chart without a computer? Could you cast a chart without tables of ascension times? The first step is learning how to see the culminating degree in the sky with your naked eye, and Gemini will show you how. Once you get a vibe for the ecliptic, the midheaven, and the zenith, the Heavenly houses fall into place. Learn to see the chart in space with your face.

Sunday, June 23

(Sunrise 4:59am, Sunset 8:31pm, Moonrise 12:37am)

- **AstroMovement**
Morning yin yoga, qi gong, and/or kundalini yoga
- **Family Breakfast**
- **Enter the Dragon * Rahu, Ketu, and Typhon * Lunar Nodes and Bendings**
Why are Sun and Moon so often seen with serpents. Why are the not-Two so often consumed by dragons? Why does Evolutionary Astrology find the Path of the Soul written in the language of the Lunar Nodes, and why are Planets on their square said to express our “skipped steps?” Starry stories from India, Greece, and the Philippines will fuel our journey through the dragon’s head and tail, and Gemini will introduce the dragon’s back and belly, too. Just what does your natal Lunar latitude say about you?
- **A Family Affair * Saros Cycles, Metonic Strings, and Nodal Return Windows**
Now that we’ve observed Moonths by Phase (Synodic), by Size (Anomalistic), and by Latitude (Draconic), we hold the keys to the Saros rhythm of the shadow dragon’s heartbeat. Further number magic explorations reveal the combination to Meton’s safe. Call in the shadow tides and travel through time in the eclipse family ride to unlock true understanding of Nodal Returns. When do these most powerful windows of Soul realignment open and close, and how can we learn to look forward by looking back?
- **Family Lunch and Chill Time**
Take a swim, go for a walk, relax and integrate the teachings
- **Joy and Saros * The Time Release Medicine of Eclipse Cycle Transformation**
Unlike transiting Planets that move sequentially through Zodiac degrees, the shadow pulse of Saros Cycles jump ahead by a Heavenly decan every 18 years, 11 days, and 8 hours. Some charts are set up for the time release medicine of Saros Sequence. Is yours???
- **Chart Art * Mysteries of the Prenatal Eclipse**
We’ll spend some time delineating the prenatal eclipse charts and natal alignments to them, along with Saros Cycle and Metonic activations for weekend attendees who are game to play. This will be a powerful way to astrologically integrate the many teachings of the weekend.
- **Family Dinner**
- **Solve et Coagula * Separation, Conjunction, and the Lesser Stone**
Gemini and Améla share tales and techniques of the third and fourth stages of the Great Work. Once the burnt matter surrenders to the flood, the sacred salt can be reclaimed from the mud. We separate from the dross we must release that which we wish to keep, and will reintegrate the revitalized heart with the reawakened mind. Solve et Coagula * break apart and put back together. What rules are we willing to rewrite to call bright light from the shadows of the self and of the collective? We will complete with an alchemical ceremony to stoke the flames of conscious change.
- **Night Sky * The Dragon at the Center and the Sun on the Cross**
We’ll first journey with the Bears to find the Dragon at the center of it all, then fall between the Gas Giant lights to find Xibalba Bay, the mouth of the ouroboros, the great Heavenly cross. Gemini will transmit a grounded understanding of precession and share galactic alignment prophecies told by

sacred calendrical codes like the Maya long count of 13 Baktuns, which was renewed in 2012. Were you? Well, there's more to do, for the window remains open for a few. Learn to see why with your naked eye. Now, who's going to stay up with Gemini to watch Venus rise at 4:05? :)

Monday, June 24

(Sunrise 4:59am)

- **Departure Day**
Everyone must be out of the house by 11am
- **Transportation to Portland Jetport (PWM) leaves house at 7am and 11am**
- **Additional sightseeing suggestions will be provided should anyone be planning an extended stay in Maine**